



INDIANA FAITH-BASED ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes

October 30, 2007
1:00 – 3:00 PM

Indiana Government Center
302 W. Washington Street
Conference Room 2
Indianapolis, Indiana

The meeting of the Indiana Faith-Based Advisory Council was called to order at 1:05 PM by Executive Director Paula Parker-Sawyers. Council Members in attendance were:

Joan Andrews	Jerry Pattengale
Jim Bertoli	Dennis Sasso
Darren Cushman-Wood	Curt Smith
Rick George	Glenn Tebbe
George Gibson	Maria Thompson
Jeff Glover	Thomas Walker

Staff members from the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives in attendance were:

Paula Parker-Sawyers	Janet Simpson
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Following the roll call, Ms. Parker-Sawyers asked that the meeting minutes from the January 30th meeting stand as submitted, unless those in attendance noted an omission or objection. The motion carried and the meeting minutes were approved.

Ms. Parker-Sawyers directed the council to the agenda stating items discussed during the meeting will contain important information for them and their communities. She stated that unfortunately all of the issues that were going to be discussed are indicators of problems within our communities. Most of the items presented and discussed contain mutual solutions and ways in which they can assist in solving the problems.

As a result of Hoosiers experiencing a very high rate of foreclosures, Ms. Parker-Sawyers then introduced David Kaufmann from the Indiana Community Housing Development Authority (IHCDA) to discuss their new initiative. Mr. Kaufmann began by stating the state of Indiana, with the assistance of HUD, have come up with various ways to assist

with this issue. Since 1999 Indiana has had a foreclosure rate that is higher than the national average and is unfortunately a persistent problem, 50% of the foreclosures in Indiana are in Indianapolis. A public awareness campaign will be launched that encourages people to get help as soon as possible by seeking assistance and understanding as to what options may be available to them prior to an actual foreclosure. A loss of a job or a disruption of income or additional financial burdens from health costs or changes in family dynamics can cause distress. This new program will try and help homeowners as early as possible before facing foreclosure. He indicated the longer they wait the fewer options that are available. IHEDA worked with a local PR firm to come up with a campaign that would encourage Hoosiers to seek assistance, to let them know they are not alone and to know there is some hope. *“Don’t Let the Walls Foreclose In On You”* is a campaign that encourages taking steps to prevent home foreclosure. Mr. Kaufmann said they wanted to begin this initiative using grass root strategies and get the information out to people who might be sought out for counseling or assistance, such as the faith-based community, because of the importance for Hoosiers to turn to someone they trust for advice. He further stated that in January, just off the heels of the holidays, they will come out with a mass media campaign that will target communities. IHEDA is excited about working with OFBCI and encouraged those in attendance to take packages of brochures and posters, to distribute to other organizations in their community, in an effort to help get the word out. These materials encourage Hoosiers to either call 877-GET-HOPE or visit the www.877gethope.org. The 877-GET-HOPE provides personal financial information and counseling and is free and unbiased, and there’s no obligation or commitment. If necessary, counselors can also connect them with their lender so they could potentially arrange a more favorable payment schedule, or refer them as deemed based on their particular circumstance in order to help them come to some type of resolution. Mr. Kaufmann indicated this program doesn’t always mean they will be able to keep their house and that they may in fact have to sell their home. He advised the council that it was important to let them know that the sooner they call, the more options the homeowner has available. If a citizen calls and their home is already in a sheriff’s sale situation, unfortunately the new foreclosure assistance program won’t be able to help them. In this instance, the only thing the new program can do is help the homeowner understand the process and possibly refer them to other housing options in their area. Ms. Parker-Sawyers advised that this information will be included in Friday Night Facts as well. Mr. Kaufmann stated the phone number and website will go live on November 7th. He continued by stating the website is an interactive educational tool that will ask the same questions that are asked over the phone. Reverend Rick George asked if information was available to find out how individual counties ranked. Mr. Kaufmann stated there is some county analysis available and he will provide that information to Ms. Parker-Sawyers who in turn can share with the council. He did indicate the concentration of foreclosures are in Indianapolis, Marion, Anderson, up to Fort Wayne and then over to South Bend and into Lake County. The southwest part of the state would be the least concentrated. Jerry Pattengale said he liked the brochures because they are not overbearing and are user friendly. Mr. Kaufmann once again encouraged them to take the printed materials and to let Ms. Parker-Sawyers know if they needed any more. Ms. Parker-Sawyers advised OFBCI has a data base of over 10,000 places of worship over the state and IHEDA has been given this information for their mailing to offer this

information and brochures. She said the mailing will also have a ready to print type of bulletin insert so that smaller churches, who may not have a computer available to create a bulletin insert, can copy or put it in a typical mailing to their members. Mr. Kaufmann said these same materials will be available to community based organizations as well. Father Gibson asked how long this initiative will be available and Mr. Kaufmann's response was as long as it is needed. He further stated in addition with working with places of worship, they are currently working with AARP, senior centers, libraries, Work One Centers, hospitals and other community based organizations in an effort to reach as many folks as possible. He continued by stating the brochures are being translated into Spanish and that information will be provided to Ms. Parker-Sawyers as well. He encouraged the council members to contact Ms. Parker-Sawyers if they needed further information. Regarding the materials being translated into Spanish, Ms. Parker-Sawyers suggested they use an individual and not an automated service. Mr. Kaufmann stated they were utilizing the services of a certified translator who happens to be the spouse of one of their foreclosure intervention specialists.

Reverend Cushman-Wood asked why foreclosures are so high in Indiana and Ohio. Mr. Kaufmann provided the following information in response to Reverend Cushman-Wood's question. Foreclosure rates over the last five years in mid-western manufacturing states such as Indiana, Ohio and Michigan, comprise over 9% of foreclosures nationally. These same states are not necessarily considered hot real estate markets and are ones with the lowest appreciation rates, 16%, which compounded is about 3% a year. When you don't have equity, due to a lack of appreciation, you are unable to sell your house and therefore don't have enough equity to draw from to get you over a financial matter. Statistics show that Indiana has a 75% home ownership rate and in some instances, home ownership isn't necessarily the best option for some people. He further stated there has been some predatory lending over the last five years as well. On the national level, since FHA is a secure product, they are hoping to have people refinance into FHA. He continued by stating the sub-prime market in Indiana accounted for almost 1/2 of the foreclosures. The Federal Reserve board did a recent study to look at the market in terms of lending. What they discovered was that people were not necessarily using the sub-prime to get into home ownership and then when the need is there to get money out for a financial crisis, they find themselves in a worse situation. The market has started to correct itself, but has a long way to go.

Mr. Bertoli asked if other resources, such as speakers, were available to speak regarding financial stability and responsibility. Mr. Kaufmann indicated their network of people would be available and that the best way to arrange this would be to contact Ms. Parker-Sawyers. Mr. Pattengale stated in Marion they were announcing a huge technology park and that when a group of companies come into an area they begin building their own housing development when there is a huge amount of existing and available housing. He further stated that there are costs to everyone involved when a home is foreclosed, including the community. For example, there are a cluster of foreclosed homes in Marion between downtown and the University and it is a cost to the city to either maintain them, inspect them, and causes homes around them to depreciate in value. Rabbi Sasso asked what the impact of foreclosures was with regard to the homeless problem and does

IHCDA work with homeless agencies. Mr. Kaufmann's reply was IHCDA provides assistance from emergency shelter to home ownership and the property tax issue is very closely linked to this. Some people may not be able to afford the rental market, although we may see a shift within the next 12 months. Ms. Thompson asked if anyone working the 877-GET-HOPE line will speak Spanish. Mr. Kaufmann stated yes and that some of the referral organizations have Spanish speaking associates as well. IHCDA will be mindful of the referral in order to provide the best information possible. Ms. Parker-Sawyers thanked David for his presentation.

Mr. Smith then shared that the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reversed Judge Hamilton's ruling about prayer.

Ms. Parker-Sawyers began her PowerPoint presentation reminding the Council about the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Conference on November 5th and 6th at the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown. To date, there are over 1,000 people registered. This conference will be packed with capacity building and informational workshops and she encouraged them to register and attend.

She then introduced the Access to Recovery Grant, stating this is a new initiative being administered by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction. The goals of this grant are to expand capacity of addiction recovery services; support client choice; and increase the array of faith-based and community based services for clinical treatment and recovery support. Indiana's award is \$4,830,000 per year for three years, beginning 10/01/07, of which \$1,449,000 of the grant must be expended on clients recovering from methamphetamine addictions and must serve 6,900 patients during the life of the grant and cannot be repeat clients. The seven targeted communities are Lake County, St. Joseph County, Elkhart County, Allen County, Marion County, Vigo County and Vanderburgh County. The populations to be served are individuals recently released from the Criminal Justice System, pregnant women and single women with dependent children and individuals recovering from methamphetamine addictions. Mr. Smith asked if the methamphetamine problem was more prevalent in rural areas. Ms. Parker-Sawyers responded yes. The ATR grant is four years old and this is its second round. Ms. Parker-Sawyers advised she had contacted the ATR Project Director for Connecticut as well as the Director of Treatment Services in Tennessee and was able to gain valuable information from them. The Director of Treatment Services from Tennessee indicated they had 95 counties and wish they had not tried to serve the whole state and had only targeted to the most populous counties. Reverend Cushman-Wood asked what would happen if a client lived in Pike County and went to Vanderburgh County for treatment. Ms. Parker-Sawyers stated she believed it was based on the client's home address at the time of the service. She indicated she was scheduled to attend training the week of November 12th. The services required by the ATR grant are clinical treatment services, case management recovery support services, medical services, after care recovery support services, education/recovery support services and peer to peer recovery support services. A voucher for these services will be developed for providers to access ATR Funds. The Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA) will design, plan and implement the systems and the vouchers will be the means where providers are reimbursed for services

provided. At this time, it has not been decided whether there will be virtual vouchers or debit cards. Once the provider information is put into the system, the client is given a list of providers for each service they have been approved for. This information will consist of faith-based and community based service providers and then the client decides which provider to use. Rabbi Sasso asked what type of expertise would be required of a service provider. Ms. Parker-Sawyers stated between now and March 1, 2008 the required criteria will be established. She further stated the criteria will be rigid in order to ensure providers qualify. The role of the OFBCI is to convene an ATR advisory panel, develop application protocols for service providers, recruit service providers, assesses applicant service providers' capacity, train service providers and monitor compliance of service providers. Two additional OFBCI staff members will be hired to administer this grant. DMHA will design and implement the system to transfer payment between the client and case manager. Rabbi Sasso asked if the case manager has the choice to decide which service provider to client uses. Ms. Parker-Sawyers response was no, it is purely the client's choice. The client has to have used methamphetamine within the last 30 days to be eligible for services. There are 14 other states that have successfully put together their ATR grant. She encouraged the Council to volunteer for the ATR advisory panel, to share information with potential service providers and to help with training if they have expertise in a particular area. Mr. Pattengale asked if the three year grant began on 10/01/07 or when the services become available on 03/01/08 and if the budgeted funds are spent the first year can they be revised or carried over. Ms. Parker-Sawyers advised the grant began on 10/01/07 and she believes the funds can be carried over but that they have to be spent in three years.

The next agenda item was the U.S. Dream Academy. Dr. White attended a leadership prayer breakfast in which Mr. Wintley Phipps was a guest speaker. Following the breakfast, Dr. White decided he wanted the program in the Indianapolis Public School system, particularly at John Marshall Middle School, to begin in September, 2007. As a result of his determination, the U.S. Dream Academy is scheduled to open in January, 2008. Ms. Parker-Sawyers shared that Mr. Phipps, through his work with prison inmates, witnessed firsthand the seemingly insurmountable challenges faced by children with an incarcerated parent or family member. This experience, coupled with statistics linking academic failure to future incarceration, led him to found the U.S. Dream Academy in 1998 to address the needs of children at significant risk of incarceration. Three elements of youth development underpin the U.S. Dream Academy's program philosophy. They are skill-building, character-building and dream-building. Skill-building is academic support through technology and prescriptive instruction; character-building values instruction and leadership development; and dream-building is the development of positive goals for the future through exposure, access and opportunity. Each of these philosophies is addressed through specific core program components. Ms. Parker-Sawyers said mentors are needed to commit to one hour a week for one year for the character-building component. She announced there would be a benefit concert to support the U.S. Dream Academy at John Marshall Middle School on Tuesday, November 6th. Some of the organizations who have already committed to sponsoring this program include USA Funds, One America, Pacers Foundation and possibly Fifth Third Bank. The U.S. Dream Academy has been invited to submit grant applications to several

other foundations as well. Eastern Star Church is partnering with them as well as seven other area churches.

Ms. Parker-Sawyers continued the meeting and PowerPoint presentation by updating the council on the progress and importance of disaster preparation. She advised in 2008 the OFBCI will spend quite a bit of time on this subject, noting that some items are in place but there is still a lot more to do. Disaster preparation includes organization, spontaneous volunteers, donations management and communication. Pictures taken in Nappanee from their recent tornado were shown and it highlighted how important it is that every community has a well connected and trained community and faith-based network. She advised had it not been for the work of INVOAD and the Family Christian Development Center she suspected Nappanee would have been in worse shape. Mrs. Andrews advised there were 200 homes destroyed/damaged as well as many businesses. Ms. Parker-Sawyers stated that 40 minutes after the tornado came through, Kevin Cox from Hope Crisis Network, began coordinating resources and assisting that community. Mrs. Andrews reiterated it couldn't have been done without the faith-based community's assistance. Thirty-five out of the 55 organizations who responded were faith-based groups.

Next, Ms. Parker-Sawyers asked Curt Smith to discuss the Indiana National Demonstration Project. Mr. Smith advised that Health and Human Services Office of Children and Family recently received a letter stating they were awarded a \$1.5 million grant. The purpose of this grant is to promote family formation healthy marriage goals; provide a marriage education and relationship education referral network; engage in an extensive public relations campaign supporting healthy marriages, including family budgeting, relationship and parenting skills, mentoring and other initiatives in the pilot Counties and then statewide; and partner with Title IV-D programs to inform parties of the marriage options and child support obligations for mothers and fathers. The first year is to plan and coordinate this grant, followed by four years of delivering services and collecting data. Mr. Smith advised the State of Georgia has been the recipient of this grant and has provided valuable information. He also advised that Judge Payne has become a champion of marriage. In 2005, Indiana had the worse child abuse, neglect and death rate in the country. Obviously this statistic is way too high, so they are hoping this grant will help young couples appreciate marriage, stressing the fact that there is no coercion involved. Ms. Parker-Sawyers indicated that as their grant progresses there may be some points of intersection, such as AIM straight in Nappanee is currently training marriage mentors. Father Gibson asked if this program would be connected to SHARE. Ms. Parker-Sawyers stated that was a possibility. She went on to say she had co-hosted a conversation with a number of faith-based leaders at a perinatal conference on unintended and unplanned pregnancies. She continued by stating there is such a high rate of unintended and unwanted pregnancies in Indiana. What she found most interesting is the discussion the various faith leaders had during the conference. They shared that their experiences and the things that are happening in one area are very different than in urban areas. She states once the OFBCI has new staff in place, she is considering the idea of statewide conversations just to meet and discuss some of the issues being faced by faith-

based providers and getting cross denomination or cross geographical people together to talk and to learn.

In closing, Ms. Parker-Sawyers said the previously mentioned topics gave the council an idea of what the OFBCI has been doing and how they can become involved. She reminded them that they are definitely needed. She said that as a result of the work of the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, they are being asked to collaborate with more agencies. She thanked the Council for their attendance and encouraged them to maintain contact with the OFBCI. There will be three meetings scheduled next year and that information will be forthcoming.

The meeting adjourned at 2:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Simpson
Administrative Assistant